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3 November 1950

MEMORANDUM for the Psychological Intelligence File

SUBJECT: Status Report

1. Since the announcement of the decision by the former DCI to establish a Psychological Intelligence Unit in ORE, the officials of that organization have drafted plans for:

a. An interim organization for the production of psychological intelligence; and

b. A permanent psychological division proposal

2. I was notified a few days ago by [redacted] Chief of the Plans and Policy Staff, ORE, that the interim organizational pattern had been approved by the AD/ORE and that a meeting was held in ORE (called by me) to discuss the approximate and ultimate objectives which the officials of ORE had in mind for the psychological intelligence organization. Present at this meeting were the following:

[redacted] COAPS

[redacted] Chief, Programs Branch, S/[redacted]  
[redacted] Chief, Interim Psychological

Intelligence Division

[redacted] Plans Branch, S/[redacted]

[redacted] Management Staff, CIA

3. The first item discussed at the meeting was the implication of the approval of the interim psychological organization. This outfit is scheduled to officially begin on next Monday, even though negotiations for agency personnel have not yet been completed and the space in which they are to operate has not been found. It is understood that [redacted] as chief of the undertaking will report direct to Mr. Babbitt.

4. Up to this time no broad allocations of responsibility in the field of production of psychological intelligence have been made between the various intelligence agencies and no specific discussion took place with the Department of State on any phase of the organizational pattern which was to be evolved in CIA in relation to the new psychological intelligence organization which is now being established in OIR. The current steps in ORE are motivated by the need for specialists

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in the psychological intelligence field to produce in ORE the estimates required in response to requests which are being received regularly from OPC and on some occasions from the National Security Council, the Joint Chiefs of Staff and IFIS.

5. When I raised the question as to whether any examination was being made of these requests to ascertain if the product to complete the estimate could be undertaken elsewhere than in ORE, the response was that my question was "four years too late" because as a norm of current operation ORE does and has been doing political intelligence. I was further informed that when requests came for estimates in the psychological intelligence field they were examined just as all similar requests in other fields--namely, that the production of the intelligence product was to be undertaken where they determined the competency existed to produce the best results. Hence, if the best men in the anthropological field existed around the corner in ORE, then the estimate was prepared in ORE. When I asked if they ever applied the critique of substantive responsibility, regardless of current competency, the answer was that I must be speaking about "the new look" which had not yet been brought to their attention.

6. None of the persons in this meeting had the opportunity of reading the minutes of the IAC meetings and hence they are continuing to pursue their daily tasks on the basis of past procedure which we now know is dead.

7. I recommend, therefore, that even if present policy is to keep the thoughts of IAC meetings in confined circles, persons on the Policy and Planning Staffs of our Offices should be allowed to read these minutes or should be fully briefed as to their main points by the Assistant Directors. Unless this is done, the transitional period of Agency growth and development in which we now exist will be made unnecessarily complex by persons who are innocent of new trends embarking on undertakings which follow a defunct gospel. I am sure that the additional copies of the minutes which have gone to the IAC member agencies are the guides for plans and operations in those agencies. It is accordingly much more essential for us to be assured of keeping our divisions and sections "on the beam" by giving them sufficient of the thoughts of initiative and leadership which are now guiding the conduct of our activities both within and in our dealings with the IAC agencies.

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gence Division

25X1 [redacted] Plans Branch, S [redacted]

25X1

25X1 [redacted] Management Staff,  
CIA

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